



UP Ag Connections

725 Greenland Road, Ontonagon, MI 49953

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Published Monthly

NEWS & VIEWS

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

You'll notice an insert to the Ag Connections Newsletter. It's the first issue of a newsletter directed specifically to keep everyone up to date with the on goings at the Michigan State University U.P. research and Extension Center in Chatham. It is going to be a great compliment to the Ag Connections. You'll find in Ashley McFarland's opening note regarding a goal of the center to promote healthy soil, food, people, and communities. This ties in perfectly with a point I would like to emphasize in this edition.

I would like to congratulate Jake and Elaine Jahfetson being the Michigan Milk Producer's Association (MMPA) 2013 Quality Award Winner. They produced the highest quality milk of all the MMPA producers across the state of Michigan. Certainly I want to congratulate any U.P. farmers that receive recognition and awards. Jake and Elaine's accomplishment comes under some unique circumstances. First of all, they have a small cow herd milking only 22 head. Some may think that having a small herd would make it easier to control milk quality and reduce somatic cell count, but Elaine pointed out in a Milk Messenger article that one bad quarter of an udder can greatly affect the overall milk quality. Ultimately, they must be constantly diligent to ensure that mastitis problems don't occur. Larger farms have some level of luxury that by having more cows and more milk, that one cow doesn't change SCC as significantly as it does with fewer cows. Many of the farmers receiving quality awards are actually larger farms.

The point that I want to make and Jake and Elaine serve as perfect example that while size may matter, the challenges of being large or small can be overcome. I have written frequently of how upsetting it is to hear farmers bashing farmers. Small vs large, organic vs commercial, every producer has a place in this industry. One thing I'm certain about is that we will always have a market for our food. While we are fortunate enough here in the U.S. to have more food than we can consume, worldwide we barely produce enough. One could argue that when people are starving in some regions of the world that we aren't producing enough today. It's not a production problem today; today it's a distribution problem. Sometime in the not too distant future it's going to be a production problem. My point is that the market for our food is big enough; we don't need to fight about it. So again I'd like to congratulate Jake and Elaine and keep up the good work.

Finally, the weather seems to be following a similar pattern across the U.P. as it did last year. Cool, wet spring and as summer gets rolling, the heat units continue to lag behind. Everything seems later than normal, from hay maturity to vegetable produce planting. It'll be interesting to see how it all plays out in the end as we watch the heat units, rain fall and how early the frosts come. Hopefully, we will be blessed with conditions to allow our crops to grow to large yields with excellent quality.

~Frank

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MARKET REPORT (6/26/14)

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Market Ready Prices

Choice Steers	\$130-\$156	per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$108-\$142	per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$77-\$86	per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$150-\$170	per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$70-\$108	per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$130-\$290	per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$125-\$130	per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows	\$2000 - 2800 per head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$1800 - 2600 per head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

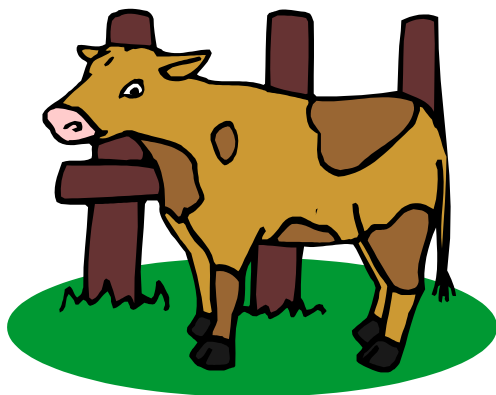
	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$13.63	\$272.50	\$230-315
Soymeal	\$26.60	\$532.00	\$300-764
Oats	\$17.80	\$356.00	\$280-432
Barley	\$14.23	\$284.50	\$220-349

Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots

Wanted & For Sale Listings

Personal ads will be removed monthly. We reserve the right to edit your ad. Free ads must be no more than 110 spaces. Please respect the space requirements. You can always purchase an ad if more space is required. Please call or email your ad no later than the 15th of each month. Call the Ontonagon County MSU Extension office at 906-884-4386 or email msue66@msu.edu.

For Sale: Polled Hereford Bulls 12-15 months old, semen tested, 7 to pick from. Top genetics, several AI sons of Genex sires Mr. Hereford and 719T. Prices starting at \$2500 delivered. Contact Hanson's Double G Herefords 906-753-4684 or 906-630-5169



Looking for a past edition of the newsletter?
Check out www.maes.msu.edu/upes

Livestock and fair food shouldn't mix: Tips to keep you healthy at the fair

Risk of getting sick after touching livestock at a petting zoo or the fair is real and tragic. Nothing can be done to eliminate the risk, but there are several practical things fairgoers can do to avoid getting sick after petting animals.

Posted on **June 17, 2014** by **Phil Tocco**, Michigan State University Extension

Your biggest worry regarding fair food *should* be the calorie count, but it always isn't. Recently, some high profile foodborne illness outbreaks from petting zoos and fairs in other states have brought to light the problems that can occur when you mix livestock in close proximity to fair food. In crude terms, people run the risk of eating manure and getting sick. In some cases, these sicknesses have resulted in long-term health problems and even death.

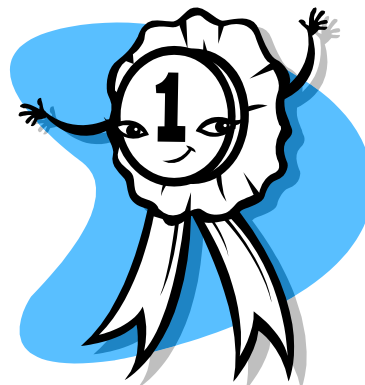
Wash your hands. Michigan State University Extension says the single most important thing you can do to decrease the spread of foodborne illness is to thoroughly wash your hands before eating *anything*, and after touching, handling or petting animals. When hand-washing stations exist, hand sanitizer is *not* a substitute for washing hands. Soap and water are the best way to reduce the spread of illness. If no hand-washing stations exist, then consider hand sanitizer.

Clean your shoes. After walking through the barns or show arena, it is very likely that you will have some quantity of manure on your shoes. Pay attention to where you put your shoes. As soon as it is practical, you may wish to clean them.

Watch where you eat. Always choose to eat in an area that is covered and has no visible signs of livestock or other animals. Birds often scavenge in open areas and are not too particular about where they defecate, making open areas somewhat risky. Pay attention to the table tops and seats for signs of animal manure and avoid these areas as well. Eating in the barn, while socially acceptable, is probably not the lowest risk place to eat at the fair from a food safety perspective.

A number of fairs in Michigan have adopted "no food" policies in the barns. Adoption of these kinds of policies is not always popular, but can prove to be prudent. Healthy but upset 4-H volunteers and youth are far preferred over volunteers and youth with permanent immune damage from food poisoning.

It's important to have fun at the fair. The goal is to create lasting positive memories of your fair experience. A nasty hospitalization to recover from food poisoning undermines this. Be safe and eat smart at the fair. This article was published by **Michigan State University Extension**. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-678-3464.



MSU Extension forage field days coming soon

Three forage-based on-farm field days are scheduled for July and early August. These free, informal programs are designed to address local issues in forage and grazing management and are supported by a grant from Project GREEN. Host farmers and MSU personnel will lead discussion, present research-based forage information and respond to questions. Come and learn from fellow farmers about their successful forage systems. The August 2 forage program is part of the larger "Education on the Farm" event sponsored by Chippewa Co Farm Bureau, Mackinac-Luce-Schoolcraft Farm Bureau, Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Conservation District, MAEAP, and NRCS. Refreshments on July 28 sponsored by the Iron Range Farm Bureau, and on July 29th by the Menominee County Farm Bureau. Please call Jim Isleib, MSU Extension, at 906-387-2530 to register. Leave a message if calling after office hours. Make sure to mention which field day you will attend. This is needed to arrange for on-farm transportation and refreshments.

Monday, July 28, 2014 - 5:00 pm—7:30 pm CT
Brule River Farm, Jon and Donna Ahlberg
1272 M-73, Iron River, MI 49935

Topics

- Low input pasture renovation
- Efficient watering systems
- Rotational grazing
- Fence line weaning
- Pasture fencing
- Use of industrial ash as soil amendment
- Additional topics will be determined by participant interest

Agenda

5:00 pm – Meet at Ahlberg farmstead
Brule River Farm description and forage/grazing practices – Jon Ahlberg
5:30 pm – Board haywagon for farm tour
5:30 - 6:45 pm – Farm tour
6:45 pm – Return to farmstead
6:45 – 7:00 pm – Comments from Dr. Kim Cassida
7:00 – 7:30 pm – Refreshments sponsored by Iron Range Farm Bureau, discussion, wrap-up

Using grasses to optimize fiber content in dairy rations

Improvements in corn and alfalfa varieties and crop management may result in very energy- dense dairy feeds, but lower fiber content can become a concern.

Posted on **June 24, 2014** by **Jim Isleib**, MSU Extension

To meet the needs of high-performing dairy cows, producers raise the best possible forage crops, including corn silage and alfalfa haylage or hay. There has been strong focus on highly digestible fiber in corn varieties because it increases energy value of the forage. Alfalfa fiber digestibility and feed energy value, as well as protein content, are increased by harvesting at reduced maturity, but this can result in dairy rations that do not contain enough effective fiber to maintain good rumen and animal health. To increase effective fiber content, some farmers have been feeding fiber sources such as grass hay, forage sorghum, sorghum-sudangrass or even straw.

In an effort to bring this issue into focus, Michigan State University Extension is organizing a forage field day at Brock Farms in Daggett, Michigan (Menominee County). The Brocks milk around 800 Holstein cattle, making them one of the largest dairy operations in the Upper Peninsula. Steve Brock will share his experiences and observations regarding the fiber issue. Farmers and others attending the field day will have a great opportunity to discuss this and other important concerns in an informal setting. MSU Forage Specialist, Kim Cassida and MSU Extension educators will also contribute to the program.

Tuesday, July 29, 2014 - 11:00 am – 1:00 pm CT
Brock Farms, Steve Brock
W5186 Co Rd 360, Daggett, MI 49821

Topics

- Increasing fiber content in dairy rations using grasses
- Impact of cover crops on Brock Farms
- Mixed alfalfa-grass seedings – which grass species to include?
- Ways to reduce cost of production for corn
- Additional topics will be determined by participant interest

Agenda

11:00 am – Meet at Brock Farm. Farm description and forage production practices and challenges – Steve Brock
11:30 – 12:00 pm – Getting fiber into the dairy diet: Dr. Kim Cassida
12:00 pm – Lunch sponsored by Menominee Co Farm Bureau
12:30 pm – Ideas for reducing corn cost of production – Jim Isleib, MSU Extension
12:45 pm – Cover crops in forage systems – Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension and Dr. Kim Cassida
1:00 pm – Wrap up

'Education on the Farm' program

Saturday, August 2, 2014 – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm ET
9:00-10:00 am: Hunter's Ridge Belted Galloways, Jodi Hunter, 4171 W. 10 Mile Rd, Dafter, MI
11:00 am - 5:00 pm: Love Farms, Bob and Tina Love, 12361 W. Turner Rd, Rudyard, MI

Organized by the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District in conjunction with the Chippewa County Farm Bureau, Mac Luce Schoolcraft Farm Bureau and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Full program information available from Mike McCarthy, Chippewa/Mackinac/Luce Water Stewardship Technician at 906-632-9611. The forage, cover crop and animal handling components are presented by MSU Extension staff.

Topics:

- 9:00-10:00 am: Small farm MAEAP verification tour
11:00 am – 5:00 pm:
- Natural Resources Conservation Service / MAEAP farm tour
 - Slaughter facility tour
 - Free Lunch featuring local meats
 - Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMP's) and Right-to-Farm law discussion
 - Grazing management in the Upper Peninsula – Jerry Lindquist, MSU Extension
 - Animal handling practices / demonstration – Kevin Gould, MSU Extension
 - Cover crop demonstration plot – Jim Isleib and Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension

COC Election Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions. The COC nomination period runs from June 15, 2014 through August 1, 2014. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers. For more information contact your local FSA office.

USDA Kicks Off the 2014 "Feds Feed Families" Nationwide Food Drive

USDA kicked off the 6th annual Feds Feed Families Campaign on June 2, 2014.

The food drive is an annual event in which Federal employees, nationwide, collect food for distribution by food banks, food pantries, and shelters.

The Feds Feed Families program started in 2009. The 2014 food drive officially began on June 2 and will run through August 27.

All Federal agencies across the country participate in the campaign and Federal employees are asked to donate non-perishable food items throughout the summer. Donations are given to local food banks across the country – having a positive impact to help food banks address food insecurity. Secretary Vilsack noted that the latest USDA estimates show that in 2012, food insecurity affected 14.5 percent of American households at some point.

If you are interested in making a fresh produce or nonperishable donation to the annual "Feds Feed Families" Food Drive, please contact your local USDA Service Center.

For more information on the Feds Feed Families campaign, please visit: <http://www.usda.gov/fedsfeedfamilies>.

USDA's Farm Service Agency Offers Farm Bill Website and Online Overview of Farm Bill Programs

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on Feb. 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill and for an FSA program overview please read, download and/or print our recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, [What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?](#)

For more information on FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Announces the Extension of the Milk Income Contract Program for 2014

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced the extension of the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program which protects dairy farmers against income loss through Sept. 1, 2014, or until a new Margin Protection Program for dairy producers (MPP) is operational.

Contracts for eligible producers enrolled in MILC on or before Sept. 30, 2013, are automatically extended until the termination date of the MILC program. Dairy operations with approved MILC contracts will continue to receive monthly payments if a payment rate is in effect.

MILC compensates enrolled dairy producers when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt), after adjustment for the cost of dairy feed rations. MILC payments are calculated each month using the latest milk price and feed cost, just as in the 2008 Farm Bill. The payment rate for October 2013 through January 2014 marketings is zero. Payment rates during the months after January 2014 until the termination of the MILC program will be determined as the appropriate data becomes available.

FSA will provide producers with information on program requirements, updates and sign-ups as the information becomes available.

New Farm Bill Offers Increased Opportunities for Producers

The 2014 Farm Bill offers increased opportunities for producers including farm loan program modifications that create flexibility for new and existing farmers. A fact sheet outlining modifications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan Programs is available from your local service center.

The Farm Bill expands lending opportunities for thousands of farmers and ranchers to begin and continue operations, including greater flexibility in determining eligibility, raising loan limits, and emphasizing beginning and socially disadvantaged producers.

Changes that will take effect immediately include:

- Elimination of the 15 year term limit for guaranteed operating loans.
- Modification of the definition of beginning farmer, using the average farm size for the county as a qualifier instead of the median farm size.
- Modification of the Joint Financing Direct Farm Ownership Interest Rate to 2 percent less than regular Direct Farm Ownership rate, with a floor of 2.5 percent. Previously, the rate was established at 5 percent.
- Increase of the maximum loan amount for Direct Farm Ownership Down Payment Loan Program from \$225,000 to \$300,000.
- Elimination of rural residency requirement for Youth Loans, allowing urban youth to benefit.
- Debt forgiveness on Youth Loans, which will not prevent borrowers from obtaining additional loans from the federal government.
- Increase of the guaranteed percentage on Conservation Loans from 75 to 80 percent and 90 percent for socially disadvantaged borrowers and beginning farmers.
- Microloans will not count toward direct operating loan term limits for veterans and beginning farmers.

Additional modifications must be implemented through the rulemaking processes. Visit the FSA Farm Bill website for detailed information and updates to farm loan programs.

Great Interest Rates: Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Remember: these loans are now available for Hay/Forage Storage as well as traditional grain storage!

June Interest Rates:

- 2.250 percent for 7 years with a loan of \$100,000 or less
- 2.625 percent for 10 years with a loan of \$100,000 - \$250,000
- 2.750 percent for 12 years with a loan of \$250,000 - \$500,000

Contact your local FSA county office for July's interest rates.

\$

New Swine Disease Immediately Reportable to State Veterinarian

Contact: Bridget Patrick 517-284-5661
Agency: Agriculture and Rural Development

June 18, 2014

MEDIA CONTACT:

Bridget Patrick, 517-284-5661 or patrickb@michigan.gov

LANSING – Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MDARD) State Veterinarian Dr. James Averill has added new diseases to the state's reportable animal disease list: Novel Swine Enteric Coronavirus Diseases (SECD) causing diarrhea in Michigan pigs, including Porcine Epidemic Diarrheal Virus (PEDv) and Swine Delta Corona Virus (SDCv).

"Even though Novel SECDs are not a food safety or public health concern, swine producers, veterinarians, and laboratories are to report to MDARD all positive and suspect cases," said Averill. "Novel SECDs cause vomiting, acute watery diarrhea, loss of appetite, dehydration, and may cause death in up to 80 percent of affected suckling pigs."

These coronaviruses spread easily, and can cause significant sickness in swine, affecting their growth, production potential, and health. PEDv has spread to 40 states and caused seven million piglet deaths.

"These viruses are having an enormous economic impact on swine producers," Averill said. "Biosecurity is critical to reduce disease spread. Visitors, including individuals providing essential services to farms such as gas, electric, mail, and feed delivery, need to be cognizant of where they are going and where they have been so they aren't spreading viruses between farms."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will provide assistance to state departments of agriculture, private veterinarians, and swine producers to fight these viruses. A newly infected herd will be required to develop a herd plan in conjunction with their veterinarian. Herd plans are to include:

1. Disease monitoring
2. Biosecurity practices to reduce disease spread
3. Record keeping of animal movement

"Since Novel SECDs are now reportable to the state veterinarian, we can offer services through MDARD to promote biosecurity and help control these devastating illnesses," stated Averill.

The Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health at Michigan State University is part of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. Contact DCPAH for guidance on sample submissions at: 517-353-1683.

For further inquiries or to report suspected disease or a positive test for Novel SECD, contact MDARD at: 1-800-292-3939 or via email at: MIreportableanimal@michigan.gov

For more information on Novel Swine Enteric Coronavirus Diseases and access to biosecurity information visit: <http://www.Michigan.gov/mdard> and look for the Swine Health link under Animal Health.

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Official identification required for swine exhibition

All pigs that will be shown at fairs, shows or exhibitions must have official individual animal identification, similar to cattle and sheep.

Posted on **March 7, 2014** by **Beth Ferry**, Michigan State University Extension

Exhibitions for the summer of 2014 are right around the corner for many youth with swine projects in the state of Michigan. This year, the [Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development](#) (MDARD) has asked that all pigs which will be shown have official individual animal identification, similar to other species including cattle and sheep. This will allow the swine species to comply with [Public Act 466 of the Animal Industry Act](#) and have them meet the stated guidelines within the act. By implementing this procedure, swine exhibitors and the state will be better prepared to respond to disease challenges by allowing for more complete traceability.

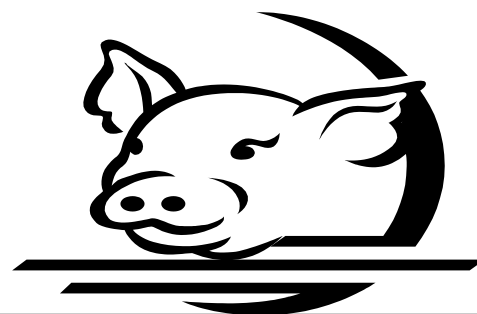
There are limited types of approved tags for official ID available to exhibitors. Included on the approved list of tag are:

- **USDA 840 tags for swine** - These types of tags have a unique 15-digit number beginning with 840, are tamper resistant, and bear the U.S. shield. A Premises Identification Number (PIN) is required to purchase '840' tags or devices from the USDA approval suppliers.
- **Metal NUES tags** - Metal National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags are available through MDARD at no cost. These tags include a non-repeatable number etched on them.
- **Plastic NUES tags** - The plastic National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags are only available for fairs to order as a group. MDARD will provide these tags for fairs at no cost. A non-repeatable number is printed on the tags.

It is important to note that only fairs can order the plastic NUES tags as a bulk order. The fair will then be required to complete corresponding paperwork, including exhibitor name and address linked to each tag. If office ID is needed for animals not exhibited at a county fair level (jackpots and state shows) the exhibitor is responsible for acquiring either a USDA 840 tag or ordering a metal NUES tag from MDARD.

Communicating this message to fairs and swine exhibitors is important. More information can be found on the [MDARD website](#). If you have questions regarding official swine ID please contact a member of the [Michigan State University Extension](#) pork team, or me at 269-445-4438 or franzeli@msu.edu.

This article was published by **Michigan State University Extension**. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-678-3464.



Miracle of Life Education Pavilion Looking for Resources

Farm Bureau and Greenstone Farm Credit Services are sponsoring the Miracle of Life Education Pavilion and are looking for resources to use in the educational display. They are particularly looking for pictures of “now and then.” Anyone with agriculture or forestry related pictures from the past and a current picture of the same or similar setting are asked to make them available to be put on display. The pictures can be of about anything really; from old farmsteads or Centennial Farms, to field operations or maybe even some agriculture businesses. They also would greatly appreciate some written history on presented pictures to further enhance the displays.

Please send history, pictures of past and present to hansfarm@up.net or Diane Hanson 3595 26th, Cornell, MI 49818. Phone 906-384-6908

Are your livestock tested and identified for the Fair?

Frank Wardynski

Exhibitors of livestock at fairs and exhibitions are reminded to check the fair book and ensure that their animals are tested for required diseases and that proper identification is used. Below is a list of 2014 Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan, taken from the 2014 premium book of the Upper Peninsula State Fair.

- ◆ All cattle must have a negative BVD-PI test
- ◆ All Cattle must be identified with an RFID tag.
- ◆ All cattle coming from the Lower Peninsula of Michigan must have proof of a negative TB test within 60 days of the U.P. State Fair.
- ◆ Horses must have proof of a negative Coggins test.
- ◆ Goats must be identified with official USDA Scrappie tag.
- ◆ Sheep must be identified with official USDA Scrappie tag.
- ◆ Swine must be identified with official USDA identification tag. (The UPSF will provide these tags in 2014)
- ◆ Swine at a fair, exhibition, exposition, or show authority facility with a fever of 105 degrees F is reportable to MDARD.
- ◆ Poultry must test negative for pullorum before entering barn.

Frank Wardynski
Michigan State University Extension
Ruminant Educator
Office (906) 884-4386



Preparing for the show – practicing for your Success

Preparation for shows starts at home with practice and learning to work as a team with your animal. Follow this news article series to prepare for your successful show ring experience.

Posted on **June 23, 2014** by **Julie Thelen**, Michigan State University Extension



Being ready to walk into the show ring for a jackpot show or fair involves more than just having your animal with you. The [Michigan State University Extension](#) “Preparing for the show” series is a four article series that helps youth become better prepared to walk into the ring and have a successful experience. The series will focus on the three C’s surrounding the most frequently asked questions: Cleanliness, confidence and clothing.

Walking into a show ring is a lot like giving a speech. The biggest difference is that you have a prop with you that may or may not be wanting or ready to be there. So how do you attempt to have the most success? Two words: Practice and teamwork.

Just like you would practice giving a speech, preparation for the show begins at home. Preparing an animal for the show takes patience as you continue to train the animal for what you would like to do in the show ring. If you believe that your class will take at least 20 minutes, make sure you practice the exact way you would in a show for that same amount of time so that the animal is use to the experience it will have. This will also help you mentally and physically prepare for your showing experience. If you are on your own working with your animals, consider hanging up a mirror so that you can see exactly what your animal looks like and what changes should be made to foot and head placement. Even if you are having one of your best days showing, if you and your animal are not working as a team, experiencing success will be much more challenging. Teamwork is an essential life skill off of [Iowa State University’s Targeting Life Skill Wheel](#). Working together as a team with your animal not only increases the comfort level of the animal, but will allow you more success in reaching your own goals for being in the show ring.

Parts 2, 3 and 4 in this series will further explore the three most common questions surrounding cleanliness, confidence and clothing, in relation to getting you and your animal ready for to show.

This article was published by **Michigan State University Extension**. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-678-3464.

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Meetings & Events Calendar

July

July 22-24 7:30 to 3:30 pm, 2014 Michigan Ag Expo, 3498 Mount Hope Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823
July 25-27 Ontonagon County Fair, Greenland, MI
July 26 Station Walk through at the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center in Chatham, MI

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July 28 Forage Day on UP Farms, Brule River Farm Jon and Donna Ahlberg, Iron River, MI
July 29 Forage Day on UP Farms, Brock Farms, Steve Brock, Daggett, MI

August

August 1-3 Baraga County Fair, Pelkie, MI
August 2 Forage Days on UP Farms, Love Farms, Bob and Tina Love, Rudyard, MI
August 11-17 UP State Fair, Escanaba, MI
August 14-17 Gogebic County Fair, Ironwood, MI
August 21-24 Houghton County Fair, Hancock, MI

September

September 12 Forage Days on UP Farms, Barron Farms, Gladstone, MI
September 13 Forage Days on UP Farms, Frank Wardynski Farm, Ontonagon, MI

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Updates from the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center

July/August 2014

Volume 1 Issue 1

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Calving, soil sampling and variety trials make for busy times at the Farm!

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New structures and faces bring life back to the historic farm site

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MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center Field Day – Saturday, July 26 from 1- 4 pm

A Note from the Coordinator

It is hard to believe that an entire year has passed since I started at the Farm in Chatham last May, but here I am, preparing for my second Field Day! Much has changed on our landscape (including addition of a 200' hoophouse to the Chatham skyline), but I truly believe the research mission I have been tasked with will provide great benefit to all U.P. agriculture. We do not want this diversification to be divisive, but instead to rally all farmers in the region around our goal of promoting **healthy soil, healthy food, healthy people, and healthy communities** through relevant, trusted and fact-based research.

I do hope you will take the time to visit us at our **Field Day on Saturday, July 26th from 1 – 4 pm**. The come-and-go format will be rather casual, so you're welcome to stop by anytime that afternoon. We will be showcasing the various **crop variety trial** programs we have hosted at the farm this year in partnership with Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Our **malting barley and forage research** will be special features of the program as we're joined by Dr. Russell Freed (small grain researcher, MSU) and Dr. Kim Cassida (forage specialist, MSU).

This newsletter insert will feature news and updates from the Research and Extension Center bi-monthly and will serve as a tool to communicate our efforts to our stakeholders. As always, if you have any questions, **please feel free to reach out** on the phone, online or at the Farm!

Sincerely,

Ashley McFarland

906-439-5176

ashleymc@anr.msu.edu

Congratulations to **Michelle Coleman**, UPREC secretary, for being awarded MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources **Staffer of the Month** in May! Those that work with Michelle know this is well deserved!



Please follow us on Facebook to receive daily updates of Farm activity – www.facebook.com/MSU.UPREC

South Farm Updates

As soon as the snow left, we were busy in the field preparing for yet another growing season. Here are some updates of what has been going on at the UPREC:

- Calving season began in late-April and will continue through early-July. The Farm currently manages a herd of 80 Red Angus cows, which calved in Chatham last spring. Heifers will be retained to grow the herd and steers will be finished on-site with a grass-finish strategy.
- This spring, an integrated cropping and livestock systems trial was launched to show the effects of various management treatments to soil health over five years. The first priority was an intensive soil sampling program to understand our baseline conditions. Five “treatments” (integrated crop and livestock rotations) are replicated four times across the farm and were established in May thanks to MSU Project GREEN funding.
- The UPREC was awarded \$100,000 to explore various agronomic crop potential in the U.P. from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Crops include oats, cereal winter rye, winter wheat, spring wheat, barley, field peas, various forages and cover crop species, and BMR forage sorghum. This will complement the statewide participation in corn, potato and alfalfa variety trial work ongoing.
- Malting barley research continues on the farm and the variety trial program has expanded to include on-farm trials in the U.P. and the northern Lower Peninsula. Grant funding from MSU Project GREEN will also allow us to commission a feasibility study of a small-medium sized malting facility in northern Michigan to see if we can re-establish this once booming industry. See page 4 for additional details.



Top – first calf of the 2014 calving season

Mid-left – barley variety trial

Mid-right – soil sampling in the integrated systems trial

Bottom – yearling calves born in Chatham in 2013

The North Farm

Farming opportunities sprout at the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center

New grant funding supports launch of an Incubator Farm in the food insecure region of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Demand for local food has grown throughout the nation, but in remote regions, such as Michigan's Upper Peninsula, sourcing fresh, nutrient-rich food is challenging. However, growing conditions in extreme northern climates can be tempered through use of hoophouses and other season extension technologies. To meet this demand for local produce that currently far outweighs the supply, Michigan State University is working on not just growing food, but also growing farmers that can eventually supply the local food system.

Dr. Matt Raven, from the Department of Community Sustainability at MSU is leading efforts to develop a Farm Incubator that will focus on increasing access to local food in Michigan's most remote region. Raven commented that "One of the best ways to improve access to quality food is to source it from local producers. Our goal with the incubator farm is to provide an educational center where we can increase the number of farmers in the U.P. growing nutrient-rich foods". Launch of this project is supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative's Foundational Grant program.

New Faces...

The North Farm is brimming with life. In addition to the new hoophouse structure (pictured below), we have added three new staff members to assist with the Farm Incubator



development. Collin Thompson (pictured here) is the Program Instructor and North Farm Manager. Collin hails from northeast Iowa and has extensive experience farming in various climates and systems. His most recent appointment was with Four Season Tools, a hoophouse and season extension tool company.

Here's a taste of what we're growing at the North Farm this season:

potatoes – onions – leeks – winter squash
summer squash – herbs – eggplant
cucumber – turnips – beans
carrots – tomatoes – peppers – parsnips
rutabaga salad mix – cabbage – broccoli
brussels sprouts – cauliflower – collards
kale – beets



Find us on Facebook to receive updates from the North Farm –
www.facebook.com/northfarmatuprec



*A huge **THANK YOU** to the 30+ volunteers that came out each day to assist with the hoophouse raising last month. This 192' x 30' structure will be an integral component to our Farm Incubator.*

Upcoming Events:

MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center Field Day

Saturday, July 26th from 1 – 4 pm

Our “open farm” event will showcase our various variety trial programs, including forages and malting barley. Crop researchers and outreach field staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have regarding the various crops on display. Come and go at your convenience and be sure to enjoy an ice cream sundae with us from DeBacker Family Dairy!

Bringing barley back to the Michigan economy

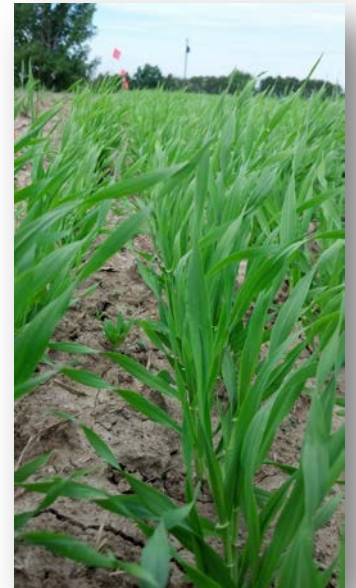
In the quest for an all-Michigan beer, craft brewers in the state are constantly challenged with acquiring quality malt that has been processed in-state with Michigan grown barley. Barley acres are quite limited in the state. Furthermore, very few malting operations, or malthouses, exist in the Michigan. Historically Michigan produced upwards of 300,000 acres of barley (whereas only 8,000 acres were harvested in 2013) and multiple malthouses and brewing operations provided opportunity for in-state malt production. That infrastructure has since disappeared, but the hope still remains.

Michigan State University is exploring the agronomic potential of barley and the feasibility of processing that barley for malt in northern Michigan. The project will support variety testing at four sites through the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula to identify which varieties are most productive; both in terms of yield and quality. These trials will be located at; the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center (Chatham, MI), and at three separate on-farm cooperator sites in Schoolcraft County (Cooks, MI), Leelanau County (Empire, MI), and Presque Isle County (Posen, MI).

Twenty-three different varieties will be tested, selected based on their adaptability to the region and malt potential. Upon harvest, samples will be analyzed for yield, test weight, moisture, protein, and other quality analysis according to the American Malting Barley Association standards.

Another component of the grant is to commission a feasibility study for a small to mid-sized malthouse to be located in northern Michigan. This will be led by the MSU Product Center.

A critical component to increasing barley acres in the state is access to in-state processing, which at this time, those options are quite limited. Many farmers and entrepreneurs alike have questioned whether or not malting barley and malt production are feasible ventures in the region, and partners hope that with this study, that question will be answered.



MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center

Main office located at E3774 University Drive, Chatham, MI 49816 – just off Highway 67 south of Chatham

North Farm located on the Rock River Road north of Chatham since 1899, Farm Incubator est. 2014

906-439-5114 – <http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/uprc>